

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 30 and 36-44 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-29 and 31-35 are under examination and have been rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Applicants hereby cancel the non-elected kit claims 38-44. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in one or more divisional applications. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 7-8, 13, 17, 22, 24, 31, 33-34 and 36-37. Applicants submit that many of these amendments correct minor inconsistency or typographical errors and do not introduce new matter. Applicants also cancel claims 2-4, 6, 9-12, 14-16, 23 and 32.

Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended such that the target molecule is now clearly stated as an oligonucleotide. Claim 1 is further amended to include the limitations of claim 16. Similarly, claim 31 is amended to include similar limitations from claim 16. As such, no new matter is added in these amendments.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to provide an enabling disclosure. Applicants respectfully disagree. In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the language Examiner objected to (i.e., vesicular structure), rendering the rejection moot.

Certain claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Karlsson et al. (Anal. Biochem. 300:132, 2002), or alternatively being rejected by

Nikiforov et al. (US 5,610,287) as either anticipated or obvious. Applicants respectfully disagree. In response, Applicants submit that the claims have now been amended to include the limitations from the non-rejected claim 16. Thus the rejections are now moot.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 1, 5, 7-8, 13, 17-22, 24-29, 31 and 33-35.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

By: /Yonggang Ji/
Yonggang Ji
Reg. No.: 53,073
Agent for Applicants

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.
800 Centennial Avenue
P. O. Box 1327
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1327

Tel: (732) 980-2875
Fax: (732) 457-8463

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Signature: /Melissa Leck/

Name: Melissa Leck